

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 MC-02 ACDA-05 EB-07 ERDA-05 OES-03

OMB-01 TRSE-00 /097 W

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R 121125Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2116

FO RUFNPS/AMEMBASSY PARIS 1384

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5643

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, US, FR

REF: PARIS 19419

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN AL-HAWADESS MAGAZINE,
CROWN PRINCE FAHD STATED THAT CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS,
HE HAD NOT CONCLUDED ANY ARMS DEALS OR ANY AGREEMENT
TO ESTABLISH A PLANT TO CONSTRUCT FRENCH AIRCRAFT IN THE
KINGDOM. HE ALSO DENIED THAT A LOAN TO FRANCE HAD BEEN
CONCLUDED. HOWEVER HE ADDED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE STILL
IN PROGRESS CONCERNING A LOAN REPORTED TO AMOUNT TO
BETWEEN SIX AND EIGHT BILLION DOLLARS. PRINCE FAHD SAID
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THAT THE FRENCH FONMIN WOULD VISIT KINGDOM NEXT OCTOBER

TO DISCUSS THE LOAN.

2. IN A REPLY TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE CONSTRUCTION OF
A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, PRINCE FAHD MENTIONED THAT WHILE
THE DISCUSSIONS WERE STILL IN PRELIMINARY STAGE, HE THOUGHT
FRANCE WAS INTERESTED IN PROVIDING KINGDOM WITH NUCLEAR
KNOW-HOW.

3. PRINCE FAHD STRESSED THAT ANY ARMS DEALS WITH FRANCE
OR OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD NOT PREJUDICE DEALS
CONCLUDED WITH THE UNITED STATES, A COUNTRY WHICH HE
REGARDS AS FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL TO THE KINGDOM. END UNCLASSIFIED

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4. COMMENT: THIS ARTICLE CORROBORATES RECENT INTER-
VIEWS WITH PRINCE FAHD IN WHICH HE HAS COMMENTED ON
USG'S PROMPTER RESPONSE TO SAG ARMS REQUESTS. BOTH
HE AND KING KHALID HAVE RECENTLY COMMENTED THAT US
TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT ARE "BEST IN THE WORLD." IT SEEMS
SAG VERY WARY OF DIVERSIFYING SOURCES OF ARMS AS
LONG AS FAVORABLE US RESPONSE FORTHCOMING TO THEIR
REQUESTS. END CONFIDENTIAL.
HORAN

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